

Historical Sketch of McKendree College

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HISTORICAL SKETCH OF McKENDREE COLLEGE

Education in Illinois.

The history of Illinois education—especially as to its higher forms—when fully written, will prove one of its most interesting chapters. For the most part, the first promoters of higher education found its zealous adherents in the various religious denominations, and in our earlier history these organizations were so engrossed in antagonistic discussions over what now will be conceded as mere dogmas, that the rivalry between them could hardly be held as fraternal. These antagonisms, coupled with the wholesome, though unfounded, fear on the part of “outsiders” of movements which might lead to the union of church and state, and, on the part of others, the unwholesome fear of the “Yankee” made it impracticable, prior to 1835, to secure legislation from the general assembly of the state granting corporate privileges for denominational institutions.

The Baptists, Methodists and Presbyterians, severally, were active in their espousals of some corporate form of expression whereby education might be fostered under their respective auspices.

The Methodists, from the date of their coming into Illinois, were the ardent friends of education. After their organization, in 1824, into the Illinois conference, embracing all the territory west of the Ohio to the Pacific—excepting Missouri—and north to the British possessions, the question of providing an institution of learning for its patrons became a much-discussed proposition among its people. At its annual session, held in Mt. Carmel, Ill., September, 1827, Rev. Peter Cartwright presented a memorial from certain citizens of Green county, praying the consideration of that body in behalf of establishing a conference seminary. This led to the appointment of a committee of five, Rev. Peter Cartwright being one of the number, to examine into the situation and report back to the conference at its next session.

This can be fairly counted the beginning of McKendree college.

Oldest Educational Institution in Illinois.

On Feb. 20, 1828—less than five months after the adjournment of the conference—the people of Lebanon, a village of about 200 souls, to anticipate the action of this committee, determined, independent of church affiliations, that the seat of this proposed institution of learning should be located in their midst. Articles of association were promptly formulated by Rev. A. W. Casad, to which subscriptions were solicited “for the erection of an edifice for a seminary of learning to be conducted, as nearly as may be, on the plan of Augusta college, Kentucky.” The articles provided that “any subscriber in the sum of \$10 should become a shareholder, shares to be transferable”; that each shareholder should be “entitled to send one scholar for each share, free of house rent, and charges for the use of the public library, etc.; also shall be free from charge for fuel.”

The building was to be two stories in height and "not less than 36x48 feet, with two wings of suitable dimensions for convenience, to be commenced as soon as \$600 is subscribed."

It was further provided that "the Illinois conference is respectfully solicited to take the institution under its fostering care," etc., with the added statement that "it is very desirable that the Missouri annual conference should unite with the Illinois conference and make it a conference seminary for both conferences." The final provision runs as follows: "In case the conferences do not signify, by special communication to the secretary of the institution, their intention to aid the institution by the first of October the stockholders shall, on notice convene and select a suitable number of managers and other officers whose powers and duties shall be delegated to them by the stockholders."

To these articles of organization, still preserved, are appended the names of 104 persons—three of the number being women—whose subscriptions toward establishing the institution aggregated the sum of \$1,385.

Founders of the Seminary.

As evidence of the systematic zeal with which these early pioneers were pushing this educational enterprise, the subscribers met on March 1 and elected the following named persons as trustees: Samuel H. Thompson, Nicholas Horner, George Lowe, Theophilus M. Nichols, Joshua Barnes, John Thomas, Sr., Samuel C. Stites and David S. Witter. At this meeting it was resolved to erect an edifice, and A. W. Casad, Nathan Horner and George Lowe were appointed a committee to purchase a certain eight-acre tract of land owned by Richard Bradsby, provided the same might be secured at a figure not exceeding \$300 per acre; the committee also being authorized to proceed to let the contract for the erection of the building.

On Nov. 8, the conference not having, at its session in the preceding October, taken the institution under "its fostering care," as expressed in the articles of organization, the stockholders held a meeting and elected thirty-three managers, of which body Rev. Samuel H. Thompson was made president, David S. Witter, secretary, and Nathan Horner, treasurer. The managers were chosen from a wide area of territory and embraced some of the most conspicuous persons connected with the early-day history of the state, as will appear from the names here given: Rev. John Dew, Rev. Joshua Barnes, Col. Andrew Bankson, James Riggis, Thomas Ray, David L. West, Col. E. B. Clemson, Rev. Samuel Mitchell, Sr., Wm. Padfield and Wm. Bradsby of St. Clair county; Rev. Peter Cartwright and Charles R. Matheny of Sangamon county; Hall Mason, Rev. Washington C. Ballard, John C. Dugger and Major Isaac Furgeson of Madison county; Rev. Aaron Wood of Mt. Carmel; Hon. Shadrach Bond of Kaskaskia; Rev. Smith L. Robinson of Kaskaskia circuit; John Tillson, Jr., Hillsboro; Peter Hubbard of Bond county; Charles Slade and Pomroy Easton of Carlyle; John Logan of Jackson county; Major John Phillips of Washington county; Col. E. C. Berry of Vandalia; Dr. Thomas Stanton of Waterloo; Rev. Zaddock Casey of Jefferson county; Rev. Andrew Monroe, Major John O'Fallon and George W. Kerr of St. Louis city; Rev. Alexander McCallister of St. Louis county, and Rev. Jesse Green of Missouri district.

At the same session an elaborate constitution was formed, defining in detail the powers and privileges of the organization, as also by-laws and rules were adopted. The nature of the work, both as to the preparatory

and college departments, was indicated, and the importance of employing someone capable of "teaching the higher branches of mathematics, natural and moral philosophy, and the Latin and Greek languages," was emphasized. This was in keeping with the provision contained in the original articles that the "seminary of learning" should be conducted "as nearly as may be on the plan of Augusta college, Kentucky," then in operation with full courses of collegiate studies.*

First Principal—E. R. Ames.

That no time should be lost in waiting for the completion of the building—preliminary steps for the erection of which had already been taken—the two school-houses of the village were rented and on Nov. 24, 1828, with Mr. E. R. Ames—subsequently bishop—as principal and Miss McMurphy, assistant, McKendree college, then known as "Lebanon seminary," was opened for public patronage. The year was divided into two sessions of five months—each session being followed by one month's vacation. The terms of tuition were fixed for the "lower branches at \$5.00 per session," and for the "higher branches, embracing mathematics, natural and moral philosophy and the Latin and Greek languages at \$7.00 per session." The close of the first term showed an enrollment of seventy-two students—five of whom were women—yielding a revenue of \$464 41. The principal received as compensation for his services \$115, and the assistant \$83.33. The board of managers, by resolution, highly complimented Miss McMurphy for her excellence as a teacher, and appointed a committee to urge her continuance in service for another session. Both Mr. Ames and Miss McMurphy were elected to their former positions, with equal salaries, each to receive \$25 per month for a five months' session.

As a bit of history, it is as gratifying as it is significant, that McKendree, commencing its career with college espousals, in an era when it was seriously believed that the lack of "gray matter" in the brain of woman disabled her for the successful pursuit of any but the most simple sort of mental culture, should have made up its board of instruction (small though it was) *from the two sexes, in equal numbers and on equal salaries*, at the same time welcoming women to the privileges of tuition. This condition of things never met with a solitary protest in the legislation of the early managers. On the contrary, there was, up to 1836, constant solicitude on the part of its members to provide adequate means to meet the requirements of women students and, Mrs. Peter Akers, followed by Miss Polly Thorp, as faculty teachers, were successors to Miss McMurphy. About the last-named date it seemed that feminine patronage disappeared, not from any hostile legislation on the part of the board, but in spite of its persistent attempt to furnish adequate facilities for its proper maintenance. The records show that in the board session of 1852, 1866, 1868 and 1869 the subject of coeducation was resurrected, and while it was not restored until the latter date, by a vote of fourteen to seven, there is on record no evidence that the small minority held any other grounds of objection than inadequacy of preparation for its reintroduction. After thirty-five years of unbroken experience with the joint system of educa-

* Augusta college, founded in 1822, was the successor of Cokesbury college, founded by the Methodists, near Baltimore, Md., in 1785, and destroyed by an incendiary fire in 1795. Augusta college, yielding to the unfortunate influences created by the acrimonious discussion of the slavery question, closed its doors in 1844, leaving McKendree the oldest existing college having its origin under Methodist auspices.

tion, McKendree has no disposition to retrace its steps, or even to advocate "segregation" of the lady students because, as is substantially held by some, her superior precocity and intellectual grasp is so much more manifest than that of her brother in the recitation-room, as to discourage the latter in intellectual endeavor; nor on the further ground of her unfitness to create a splendid "college spirit" by itinerating in a costume not wholly unlike that of a knight of the middle ages, to do strenuous service in behalf of her college on the bone-breaking, insane-making and death-dealing "gridiron."

The building, the construction of which was commenced in 1828, was completed the succeeding year and, after twenty-seven years of service, in 1856 the first erected edifice for higher education in the state of Illinois went up in flames kindled by the hand of an incendiary.

In 1830 the Illinois conference took McKendree college under its "fostering care," and at a general meeting of the stockholders a reorganization was effected whereby it was provided that in future there should be elected eleven managers by the conference and five by the stockholders, to have in custody the affairs of the institution. Later the Missouri conference accepted the college as its institution, and for a time sent visiting members to the sessions of its board of trustees. Its adhesion to the college, however, was lukewarm—induced by the growing sentiment against free-state influences—and in a little time its official patronage was discontinued.

McKendree College.

Bishop McKendree, about the period last named, in his rounds over a diocese embracing a territory half continental in its proportions, visited Lebanon. He was greatly pleased with the prospects of the new institution of learning and pledged, as a donation, 480 acres of land located in St. Clair county, for the promotion of its interests, with the expressed desire that the Missouri conference should join with the Illinois in giving it patronage and support. It was at this time that the name of the institution was changed to "McKendree college." So important did the bishop hold the object of maintaining an institution of learning for the two conferences named, that he committed the execution of his will to the entire board of bishops of the then undivided church—Bishops Roberts, Hedding, Andrew, Waugh, Morris and Soule. The last named was given power by his associates to carry out the provisions of the will which duty he performed by a conveyance of the land to McKendree college in 1839.

In 1834 the board of managers appointed a committee to petition the legislature for a charter for the institution, under the name of "McKendreean college." The Baptists and Presbyterians in like manner presented similar memorials and, as an illustration of the old adage, "In union there is strength," it resulted in the passage of an omnibus bill (3) which was approved Feb. 9, 1835, granting charters for the Illinois, McKendreean and Shurtliff colleges, representing, respectively, the Presbyterian, Methodist and Baptist denominations, all of which still exist and have done splendid work for western civilization. It should be stated that the original bill was amended to include a fourth institution, the "Jonesboro college"—which passed out of existence many years ago, if, indeed, it was ever organized. This amendment seems to have been required to secure the necessary vote to pass the bill. The trustees named in the act for McKendree college were: John Dew, Samuel H. Thompson, James Riggln, Nicholas Horner, George Lowe, Robert Moore, Theophilus

M. Nichols, Joshua Barnes, Samuel Stites, David L. West, Nathan Horner, Joseph Foulke, Thornton Peeples, John S. Barger, Nathaniel McCurdy, A. W. Casad and Benjamin Hypes—seventeen in all, ten of whom were laymen and the remainder clergymen.

The bill gave authority to these institutions to exercise the functions ordinarily incident to such organizations; providing, however, "that lands donated or devised over and above 640 acres (which might be held in perpetuity) must be sold within three years of such donation, or be forfeited to the donor," and also provided "that nothing herein contained shall authorize the establishment of a theological department in either of said colleges." The act, not improperly, provided that "these institutions should be open to all denominations of Christians." It did, however, authorize a school for manual training, in pursuance of which one was established by the college in 1836, and for a number of years was successfully maintained. The two restrictive provisions in the act bear out the thought suggested in the opening of this paper, that a widespread suspicion prevailed that theological training would inculcate religious bigotry, which, coupled with the possibly gobbled-up lands of the state, would eventuate in subjecting the civil government to churchly domination.

That such modest and safe-guarded legislation in behalf of higher education should have passed the senate by a vote of only 11 to 9 now seems surprising. The able report of Mr. Mather, chairman of senate committee on petitions in behalf of education in its higher form, and his plea for legislation in its favor, are a vigorous defense of education in general, while its italicized portions are significant in that they show he was conducting an argument to reach two classes of opponents—those who were actively hostile to the petitioners and those who were indifferent. That report should be taken from its hiding-place in the senate journal and printed. As for its recitals of historic data concerning the colleges for which charters were asked, it will not be surprising if errors are found concerning the institutions named, since, in the case of McKendree, he speaks of its patrons having "commenced their building four years ago," adding "the institution has been in operation about twelve months with an enrollment of about sixty" students. As already indicated, the first building was commenced seven years before—in 1828—and occupied in 1829, while recitations were actually commenced in rented rooms, Nov. 24, 1828, with an enrollment of seventy-two matriculants.

First President—Peter Akers.

The first president under chartered organization was Rev. Peter Akers—chosen on recommendation of Bishop McKendree—who served one year on a salary of \$500. He was succeeded by Rev. John Dew, for a like period, to be followed by Prof. Annis Merrill as acting president who, a few months later, was joined by his brother, Rev. John W. Merrill, president-elect. These two, together with Prof. J. W. Sunderland and Judge Wm. Brown of Morgan county—who came to the college about the same time—constituted a faculty which reduced the courses of study to systematic collegiate order, with a fittingly assigned division of labor. In the college work, the course leading to a degree was the classical, the order observed up to 1847, when a scientific course was added. Prior to 1836 it is believed no candidate had offered for the study of the Greek, though the Latin had been taught, as we learn from Professor Sunderland. The men composing this faculty were scholastic, ambitious and hopeful, with a full

appreciation of the heroic efforts of the founders of the college and, as Acting President Merrill stated to the writer, they "had dreams of another Harvard to be built up here, hard by the banks of the Mississippi river."

At the instigation of President Merrill and his coadjutors, Rev. John Dew, Rev. B. T. Kavanaugh and Judge Wm. Brown were appointed a committee to memorialize the general assembly for a new charter. Mr. Lincoln, then a member of that body, enlisted himself in the undertaking, with the result of securing a grant—quite in contrast with the legislation of 1835—authorizing not only the establishment of college courses, but all manner of technical schools, with power to confer all manner of degrees and the holding of 3,000 acres of land in perpetuity, as well as any added amount, provided the same should be sold within the period of ten years after title to the same.

The act contained a clause providing it should be in force only when the trustees of McKendree college should accept the same. Rev. B. T. Kavanaugh was present at Vandalla, the capital of the state, on passage of the act, and hastened to Lebanon to have the McKendree trustees officially signify its acceptance. This was in pursuance of the advice of Mr. Lincoln, who warned him that the largeness of the privileges secured by the act, if fully realized by those opposed to legislation of this character, might lead to a successful effort for its recession. The act was approved Jan. 26, 1839, was accepted by the "McKendreean" trustees at a called meeting nine days later, Feb. 4, and evidently, that no question might arise concerning the validity of the legislation because of its occurrence at a called meeting, the acceptance of the charter was reaffirmed at a regularly stated meeting of the trustees on March 4, 1839. This is a significant item, since it shows not only the lurking danger of a reversal of the action of the legislature because of dormant prejudices which might easily have been excited, but by reason of the bit of sentiment found in the solicitude of one who subsequently became our greatest of presidents, in an act he assisted to create in behalf of higher education.

The jubilant faculty and citizens of the village held the occasion whereby the "splendid charter" was secured worthy of a celebration, and by resolution of the board, Professor Sunderland was appointed to illuminate the front college windows with candles and speeches were made by Rev. B. T. Kavanaugh, Judge Wm. Brown and others, commemorating the occasion.

First Class.

The augmentation of the faculty and the thorough classification of the work of the institution already alluded to, led to the graduation of the first class in 1841—all classical—seven in number. The year preceding, Rev. W. D. R. Trotter had been admitted to the degree of bachelor of arts, on examination in the entire course of study, in pursuance of a clause in the charter providing for such cases, while the first honorary degree conferred was that of doctor of divinity, in 1839, on Rev. Peter Akers, the first president of the college.

President Merrill, in a letter to the writer, alluding to the excellent work of the first graduating class, said: "The class read as much Greek as was required at that time by the best of American colleges." On his retirement, in 1841, he was succeeded by Rev. James C. Pinley, M. D., who resigned in 1845, at which time, by order of the board of trustees, the college was closed from Nov. 17 of that year to May, 1846—a period of six months—its discouraged patrons, because of long-continued financial em-

barrassment, even debating the prudence of ever again opening its doors. In succession came to the head of the college Dr. Peter Akers, Dr. Erastus Wentworth, Dr. Anson W. Cummings, Dr. Peter Akers for a third term, and Dr. Nelson E. Cobleigh, with terms of service of one, four, two, six and five years respectively—the last named closing his administration in 1863.

We have carried the presidential succession down to the latter date for the reason that Dr. Cobleigh's administration created an epoch in the history of the institution, in that he was successful in establishing the nucleus of an endowment upon which its friends could anchor their faith for the future. In other words, it was the bringing to fruition the labors of those who had gone before, and the close of his administration might be, not inaptly, styled the heroic period of the institution. Dr. Robert Allyn, an experienced educator and able financier, the successor of President Cobleigh, in alluding to the success of the endowment proposition of the latter, wrote: "Then the dry land first began to appear, and it was solid, too, and will bear any structure built upon it." Following Dr. Cobleigh, twelve presidents, including the present incumbent, elected in 1894, have administered the affairs of the college.

High Ideals of the Founders.

The records of the board of trustees, unbroken from the date of McKendree's founding to the present, are a source of information of intense interest, as illustrating the high ideals entertained and the labors and sacrifices endured by the early pioneers, who systematically and in organized form, established this oldest college in the state, dedicated from its inception to higher education. In these records will be found every manner of legislation which it was thought could in any way promote the interest of the institution. Frequent sessions of the board, all-day sessions, adjourned to "early candle-light" and continued until the candles had burned low in their sockets, show with what persistent zeal our fathers sought to promote the interests of this cherished enterprise.

The completion of the original building in 1829 entailed a debt, which was augmented by minor improvements made necessary by the rapidly growing demands of the institution. In 1838 a loan was effected in the sum of \$5,000 from the "Bank of Illinois at Shawneetown," which, under order of the trustees, provided that so much of the same as might be necessary to pay all pressing debts—estimated at \$2,500—should be so appropriated and the residue applied on a building, the construction of which had then been authorized. The financial straits to which the promoters of McKendree's interests were subjected seemed in no sense to diminish their enthusiasm for the consideration of any question which looked toward the enlargement of the scope of its usefulness.

As already stated, a manual-training department was introduced in 1836, while legislation looking toward agricultural, normal, biblical and law departments was seriously considered; none of these, however, took the form of permanency, except the law school, which was founded by Governor French in 1858.

Almost from the beginning the necessity of endowments was felt by McKendree's patrons, and some policy by which this deficiency might be met was made the oft-repeated subject of consideration. The scholarship plan was thought to be the most available and four separate attempts were made, all of which, except the last, proved abortive. The sales were made on time-notes, the large majority of which defaulted, and the insti-

tution was glad to get rid of the incumbrance on a basis of compromise, though a losing proposition. From the last effort \$10,000 out of \$20,000 was realized, but not without disagreements and, at times, an exhibition of bad blood, which makes it a matter of doubt whether that which was secured was worth what it cost the institution.

In the first ten years of its history more than a score of financial agents were appointed to solicit donations, sell scholarships already mentioned, and to otherwise enlist the patronage of the public. Indeed, at a called session of the board, held in 1832, one Judah Ely of Philadelphia was appointed an agent "to solicit donations in Great Britain" for endowments, and the succeeding year Rev. Smith L. Robinson was appointed to travel "throughout the United States" for a like purpose, while Rev. James Mitchell was constituted an agent "to travel throughout Illinois and Missouri" for the same object. At first there may seem a bit of grim humor in the transatlantic agency, but it will not be forgotten that about that time our English cousins were making liberal donations to western denominational enterprises—notably the Episcopal—and the fact that McKendree was officially recognized by two conferences, embracing practically the whole Mississippi valley, caused our fathers to feel no small degree of hope that an agent, with such formidable prestige, might meet with encouragement on such a mission. As to the question of his ever having gone on his mission, the records are silent, nor is there any evidence of success in the case of either Robinson or Mitchell, though appointed to a territory which, educationally speaking, McKendree had pre-empted.

Financial Difficulties.

A plan for building up the finances of the institution was devised by Rev. B. T. Kavanaugh which, but for unforeseen circumstances, might have proven eminently successful. It was for the college authorities to locate public lands for eastern capital—at that time eager for such investments—the college and the investor to share equally in the results if, at the end of five years, the locations made should prove double the value of the original price of purchase. This at first met with decided encouragement. Investments were made by some capitalists in Philadelphia and Washington, but the veto, by General Jackson, of the bill for a national road, which was expected soon to reach Illinois, and the subsequent collapse of the state banks, put a quietus on land investments. Some of these lands evidently vested, for subsequent legislation of the board signifies that they, as also certain other tracts near Lebanon—including those bequeathed by Bishop McKendree—together with a large amount of brick which had been made for the contemplated new building, were ordered sold to relieve the tension of accumulated debts which imperiled the existence of the institution. Even after this action, debts still remained. Indeed, every administration, even to the present, inherited the legacy of debt—increasing and diminishing by turns—until the last vestige of incumbrance was wiped out in 1895, with no probability of so dire a foe ever again menacing the prosperity of the institution.

Touching the money bequests of which the institution has been made the subject, some conception may be had of the burden added to its financial misfortunes when it is stated that in all cases—except as to the sum of \$500, recently vested—expensive suits at law had to be maintained against contesting heirs, wherein benefactions out of which the college should have realized more than \$50,000, yielded but little above one-third that amount. Such experiences emphasize the superior benevolent wis-

dom of benefactors like Dr. D. K. Pearsons, Andrew Carnegie, John D. Rockefeller and Miss Helen Gould, who make their donations while living, thereby saving the public from the unseemly exhibitions of cupidity so often practiced by heirs over the graves of their relatives, by reason of which the generous purposes of the latter in behalf of great and enduring objects are ignominiously defeated.

The oft-repeated efforts to secure a new building, and for which at one time much material had been gathered, but had to be sold for the payment of debts, finally culminated in the erection of a three-story brick structure, 44 x 64, under the administration of Dr. Wentworth, with money raised by the late Dr. William Goodfellow.

The mention of some of the earlier names to the exclusion of others who could fittingly be chronicled in this sketch, if space permitted, will be excused when it is stated that the material is being gathered for a full history of McKendree, and will prove a sufficient apology for what might otherwise be construed as unwarranted omissions.

Devoted Teachers and Friends.

Bishop McKendree, after whom the college was named and who was its chief early benefactor, entered the ministry from the battle-fields of the Revolution, where he served as Washington's most trusted commissary. He was a man of great accomplishments and power and the late Dr. McClintock wrote of him: "He was not only the most truly eloquent bishop that his church has ever produced, but one of the best preachers of any age or church." Ames, the first principal, was a modest, scholarly gentleman, who, while serving as teacher at Lebanon seminary, applied for license to preach and secured his authority by the suffrage of a colored preacher, who broke a tie vote on his application, afterward became one of the most influential bishops of his church. Dr. Akers, the first president of the college, was a profound theologian, and Mr. Lincoln said of him: "He is the greatest preacher I ever heard." Rev. John Dew, the successor of Dr. Akers, was a flaming preacher and a man of fine judgment. Dr. Merrill, together with his brother Annis, J. W. Sunderland and Judge Brown, who inspired the university charter, under which the college is now acting, and who, as elsewhere mentioned, systematized the courses of study in collegiate order, were all accomplished scholars. The first named left McKendree to accept the chair of sacred literature in the Wesleyan Theological Institute at Newberry, Vt., and, after a life of remarkable usefulness as teacher and preacher, died in 1900, aged ninety-two years. His brother Annis, after leaving the college, settled in San Francisco, where he practiced law with eminent success and is still living, in full possession of his faculties, at the age of ninety two. Professor Sunderland, after his term of service, taught in Ursanus college, Pennsylvania, subsequently founding and maintaining for seventeen years the Pennsylvania female college, claimed to be the first-established institution in the world with a high-grade college curriculum for women, died, at the age of ninety-one, on the 9th of April of the present year. Judge Brown was a lawyer of distinction in Jacksonville, Ill., where he died many years ago. President Finley was a man of fine attainments and dignity of character, and his successor, Dr. Wentworth, was a superior preacher, a popular administrator and an efficient teacher. From McKendree he went to China as a missionary, returning to this country to take editorial charge of the *Ladies' Repository*, published in Cincinnati, and died at Sandy Hill, N. Y., in 1886, in the seventy-third year of his

age. Dr. Cobleigh was an able preacher, a superior executive officer and an eminently successful teacher. He went from McKendree to the editorship of *Zion's Herald*, Boston, and from there to the presidency of Athens college, Tennessee; thence to Atlanta, Ga., where, by appointment of the General conference of his church, he served as editor of the *Christian Advocate* until the date of his death in 1874.

Of those not connected with the board of instruction, much might be fittingly said. The names of those most active in support of the institution in its early history, have already been given in connection with the various organized forms the college assumed from the date of the original articles up to the time of securing the university charter of 1839. In the lists, the names of some will be noted who were conspicuous in the religious, political and social life of the state—even dating back to its territorial existence; Dr. Peter Cartwright, Colonel John O'Fallon, Governor Jenkins, Governor Casey, Governor Kinney, Colonel E. B. Clemson and others. In labors abundant will be found the names of Rev. S. H. Thompson, first president of the board under the charter of 1835, and Rev. Thornton Peeples, his successor. Rev. John S. Barger, James Riggin, H. K. Ashley and Governor Jenkins, each served terms of service as secretary of the board, while Joseph Foulke and Benjamin Hypes held the important post of treasurer—the latter continuously from 1836 to 1873.

Rev. A. W. Casad was auditor in 1836 and followed H. K. Ashley, J. W. Sunderland and Rev. Davis Goheen in the same office. The last named came from the East about the time the six months' suspension of the college had been voted by the board, because of debts which had become so onerous. Mr. Goheen, with a genius for organization, was a good financier and an enthusiastic worker for the institution, and in a little time he had the flagging hopes of the older patrons re-established. Early in the California gold excitement—together with his brother, S. M. E. Goheen, M.D.—he set his face toward that new Eldorado, his chief purpose, as tradition has it, being to find the hidden treasure which would establish McKendree, but died of cholera at Independence, Mo., while outfitting for his journey. Benjamin Hypes, in helpful service, will always stand conspicuous in the history of the institution. He was a Virginian, a student under Ames, when the school first opened, was elected to the board in 1835, which position he held continuously until 1896, when he was gathered to his fathers at the age of ninety-two years. In the meantime he had given thirty-eight years of unbroken service to the office of treasurer. He was a merchant, and it may be safely said that, next to his family, McKendree college was the most cherished object of his devotion, and for its interests he did more than any other person. He sacrificed for it and was one of the few who never lost hope in its darkest hours. A son of his, Dr. Benjamin Hypes of St. Louis, is now a member of the board and a worthy successor of his father.

There are two other instances wherein the present board holds representatives from families who were signers of the original articles of organization: Dr. Jotham Scarritt of Cairo—now the longest in service of any member of that body and always eminently useful—and John M. Chamberlin, who has served as treasurer the past sixteen years, and of whose father, Rev. David Chamberlin, President Allyn wrote: "But one, or at most two men, appear to have done more than he" for the institution.

Nathan Horner, whose father, Nicholas Horner, was the largest original subscriber for McKendree's founding, was one of the most useful of the

board members. He was a good financier and cheerful giver. His son, H. H. Horner, recently deceased, was a member of the first graduating class, became an influential lawyer and for several years occupied the post of dean of the law department in his alma mater.

Of Dr. M. M. McCurdy, whose interest was abiding and whose well-meant bequest melted away after his death, before vesting in the college, an interesting chapter might be written. Dr. Thomas Staunton of Alton was also an early benefactor, while Rev. Samuel Mitchell, as also Rev. James Mitchell, Rev. Jesse Renfro and others of the clergy, included among the names of those elsewhere given, constitute a class of men who held the cause of higher education as an essential auxiliary to the propagation of the great mission to which their lives were dedicated.

Early Opposition to Theological Schools.

The jubilation over the new charter of 1839 has been dwelt upon, but, as an item showing the tendency of thought on certain questions at that early period, the substance of a certain preamble and resolutions by Rev. W. S. McMurray and Rev. J. S. Barger, are here given. The preamble recites the fact that a university charter has been secured authorizing the establishing of all manner of schools and departments, by reason of which fact there might be those who would experience fear lest the organization of a theological school might be effected, "contrary to the genius, the spirit and institutions of the Methodist Episcopal church;" and it was:

Resolved, 1. That no such school should ever be established.

2. That the professors should be restrained from talking favorably of such departure.

3. That the advocacy of abolition would prove prejudicial to the interests of the institution, and that if any member of the board, agents or faculty, should be found advocating that doctrine, it would be held as sufficient grounds to dispense with the services of such offenders.

These resolutions were all adopted except the second, thereby leaving the discussion of theological schools, by the faculty, an open question. That a resolution forever prohibiting the organization of a theological school was adopted by a body of men so zealous in behalf of higher education, would, at first thought, seem paradoxical. Whatever may have been their motive, it is true that the number of those who ardently favor higher education and who feel that a candidate for the ministry—after completing a thorough classical education—can afford to dispense with a theological school, is increasing rather than diminishing. At all events, it may be said, no matter what induced the fathers to issue the perpetual injunction against a theological department, their successors, time and again, sought its dissolution, and were only frustrated by lack of the means to inaugurate the innovation. Touching the resolution on the slavery question, it simply emphasizes how acute the question of abolition had become at that time; a feeling that grew stronger with the lapse of time, since, nine years later, in rebuke of a rumor circulated against the faculty, the board found it necessary to pass the following resolution:

Resolved, That there is no evidence that any member of the faculty is an abolitionist, but much proof to the contrary, and that we consider such reports slanderous.

The "Central Christian Advocate."

As early as 1834 the board legislated for the establishment of a weekly periodical to be published in the interest of education. For the want of means, this movement failed to take form until 1847, at which time it was organized with Davis Goheen, Benjamin Hypes and George L. Roberts as publishers and Dr. Erastus Wentworth as editor. It was an able paper, served an excellent purpose, but after its maintenance for a few years, as an expensive luxury, it was transferred to the city of St. Louis and published as the *Central Christian Advocate*, from which place it was moved four years ago to Kansas City, where it is now issued by the Methodist Book Concern as one of the strong and influential journals of that denomination, under the supervision of the accomplished Rev. Dr. Claudius B. Spencer, as editor.

It will be noted that this sketch has had to do more particularly with the first few years' history of the college, incidentally touching upon subsequent matters because of their intimate connection with that period of struggle. That the pioneers of whom we have spoken had high ideals touching the future of the college has been clearly indicated, and to the credit of their successors be it said, they have sought to maintain them. For a time, it is true, something in the way of commercial courses found footing; though, even then, the collegiate courses were insistently maintained as all-important. In recent years, however, everything of a superficial character has been eliminated and the two college courses—classical and scientific—hold the attention of the students, with seventy-six percent of their number pursuing the classical. The present faculty has no inclination to follow the much too common modern method of short courses of study and the elimination of certain of the classics, on the theory that education should be "practical"—the latter term simply signifying that brain culture is to be commercialized, with the measure of its merit expressed by the sign of the dollar.

One Hundred Thousand Dollars Endowment Nearly Secured.

The early struggle to erect the second building spoken of as having been brought to a successful issue, under the administration of Dr. Wentworth, has been followed by a new chapel and library hall combined, under Dr. Cobleigh's administration, a science hall under Dr. Ailyn, and a new gymnasium during the year current. Thirty-five thousand dollars of productive endowment is on the institution and it is expected soon to have \$100,000 added, since \$80,000 of the amount is already promised. That point reached, and the sure beginning will be effected toward making McKendree what was planned for it in the charter of 1839—an outcome which its more than seventy-six years of history warrant, and the sacrifices of its pioneer founders merit.

Think of it!—the 104 subscribers to the original articles which called McKendree into being, comprised more than one-half of the population of Lebanon, a village located in a woodland strip, along an old Indian trail scarcely obliterated by the emigrant's wagon; to the east, a full 100 miles to the first settlement, and to the west, twenty miles, where St. Louis, a mere trading-post, was being built up by a brave lot of pioneers who had the prophetic feeling that it would one day become a city which would prove the gateway to the whole of the great southwestern country. It was this latter fact which inspired Bishop McKendree to feel that Lebanon was a most fitting place for a great institution of learning, and led him to give his lands toward establishing the institution which bears his name.

Distinguished Sons.

A fitting question now is: "What is the value, what the fruitage of all these labors?" The answer is found in the more than 9,000 young men and women who have gone out from this institution into various fields of endeavor, having finished, wholly or partially, its courses of study. The pulpit of every denomination—not excepting the Catholic—lawyers of national reputation; distinguished physicians and surgeons; college presidents and professors and teachers in our public schools; the founders of colleges and newspapers and numberless editors; judges of our higher courts; generals of the army—two of whom have served their country in two hemispheres—as well, also, those who have labored in less conspicuous but equally useful vocations, will furnish a list of names who can answer to roll-call as having felt the influence of McKendree's power.

At this moment, Illinois feels the potent influence of McKendree's sons. Seven of the judges now occupying seats on the bench of the higher courts of this state were students at this institution, and three of her graduates preside over Illinois colleges. It may also be added that the candidates for governor and lieutenant-governor on one of the great party tickets, as well as the candidate for attorney-general on the other, and three candidates for Congress hold McKendree as their alma mater.

These are the fruits of thy labors, and these be thy jewels, O wilderness fathers, and while the influence of your lives can never be lost, ours be the loving task to see that never so much as your names are left unwritten in our annals.

